Feeder Level at Farakka

879. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that constant fluctuation in the flow of water through the Feeder Level at Farakka (West Bengal) may cause damage to the Feeder Canal itself;

(b) whether this situation has arisen out of the water sharing agreement with Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government consider it necessary to take up the matter with Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Water sharing agreement with Bangladesh necessitates alternate increase and decrease at ten day intervals. Sudden fluctuations beyond certain limits may cause damage to the Feeder Canal as the Feeder Canal is an un-lined canal.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has initiated action and held discussions with Bangladesh on the adjustments to be made for the sharing arrangements so as to avoid damage to the Feeder Canal. Both sides agreed to take up the above issues at the appropriate level of the two Governments.

Loss of Ship in Mumbai Sea

880. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR. M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ship named "M.V. ARCADIA PRIDE" has been drowned in the Mumbai Sea recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of persons died and value of property lost;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir. On 19th July, at about 9.40 A.M., "M.V. ARCADIA PRIDE" started dragging anchor and while she was attempting to reanchor, she took a heavy list, capsized and sank. Out of 33 crew members on board, 9 persons were rescued, 5 bodies recovered and remaining 19 persons are presumed to have died. Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Mumbai, is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the casualty. The inquiry report is expected to throw light on the extent of loss of property.

Brain Drain

881. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any account of the loss caused to country due to brain drain; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) Some Indian Scientists, Engineers and Doctors migrate to other countries for jobs and higher studies. However, no record of such migrants is maintained.

Restructuring of Army

882. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Army needs restructuring" appearing in the *Statesman* dated June 26, 1997;

(b) if so, whether there is an urgent need to restructure the army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of changes proposed in the functioning of the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The organisational structure of the Armed Forces has been determined according to our requirements. All developments having bearing on our security are constantly watched and assessed and appropriate restructuring in the forces is effected whenever considered necessary. This is a continuous process. Armed Forces are also being modernised with a view to equipping them with the state-of-the-art arms and equipment. It will not be in the interest of national security to reveal further details.

Items Introduced in Canteen Stores Department

883. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new items introduced in the Canteen Stores Department during the last 12 months;

(b) the basis on which the unit run canteens demand the items;

(c) the names of the items delisted in the Canteen Stores Department during the above period;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of bills pending with the CSD for payment and since when these are pending;

(f) the reasons for the delayed payments; and

(g) the basis to arrive at a decision as to how much discount a particular supplier/manufacturer should give to the CSD manufacture-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) During the last 12 months, a total of 344 consumer & household items were introduced and 222 items were deleted from Canteen Stores Department (CSD) inventory range. The introduction and deletion of products is a continuous exercise in CSD to keep its products range in league with the demand of the troops. The introduction/deletion has been carried out in several items such as bicycle, electronic appliances, shaving products, cornflakes, matchbox, cars, sunglasses, water filter, battery and torches, hair oil, bed covers, watches, toilet soaps, ceiling fan, sewing machine, biscuits, cutlery, candles, shoes, coffee, deodrant, note books, chywanprash, cosmetics, towels, vests, suitcase, tooth paste, & cigarettes etc.

Unit Run Canteens demand items based on the sale potential among the troops.

(e) and (f) As per the existing terms and conditions of CSD, bills become due for payment 30 days after the goods are received and taken on charge at Area Depots. Bills are paid promptly by due date to suppliers. No bills, without any discrepancy, are pending beyond the due date.

(g) The basis for CSD to arrive at the discounts to be obtained from the manufacturers/supplier depends on the following factors;

(i) First point sales from manufacturer's end and discount thereof to trade.

(ii) Terms of delivery i.e. F.O.R Destination or supply at mother depot at Mumbai.

(iii) Retail price of the product in the civil market.

(iv) Price and discount structure of functional equivalents existing in CSD.

[Translation]

Supply of Newspapers to Officers in CWC

884. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government bear the expenditure incurred on the supply of newspapers to all the gazetted officers of Government of India;

(b) if so, whether officers of Group B in the Central Water Commission have been deprived of this facility by the Chairman of the CWC; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent non-compliance of Government rules and to penalise the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. There are administrative guidelines of the Government for reimbursement of cost of Newspapers to Gazetted Officers of the Government of India.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Level of Underground Water

885. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has expressed its concern on the steep fall in the level of underground water in the country and has constituted a committee of Central Underground Water Board to check indiscriminate use of underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the decline in the level of ground water in various parts of the country, the Honourable Supreme Court of India passed an order on 10th December, 1996 directing the Central Government to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development.